



Winston H. Hickox  
Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## Los Angeles Region

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, California 90013  
Phone (213) 576-6600 FAX (213) 576-6640  
Internet Address: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/~rwqcb4>



Gray Davis  
Governor

SFUND RECORDS CTR  
68470

December 10, 1999

Mr. Gary Lachman  
Plato Products, INC.  
18731 Railroad St.  
City of Industry, CA 91748

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CLEANUP PROGRAM, EL MONTE OPERABLE UNIT (EMOU)-  
FORMER PLATO PRODUCTS FACILITY AT 4357 ROWLAND AVENUE, EL MONTE  
(FILE NO. 103.0372)

Dear Mr. Lachman:

In the last two years, new chemicals have been discovered in drinking water wells and shallow groundwater monitoring wells in the San Gabriel Valley Basin (Basin). These new chemicals are a set of chemicals called emergent chemicals, and so far include perchlorate, N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), and 1,4-dioxane. Currently, research is underway to study the occurrence, adverse health effects, and remediation of these chemicals. One of these chemicals, 1,4-dioxane, is known to be associated with the use of 1,1,1-TCA.

In order to determine the occurrence and extent of these chemicals in Baldwin Park Operable Unit where they were first discovered in the Basin, Regional Board staff implemented a monitoring program there in 1998. Emergent chemicals, particularly, 1,4-dioxane, were also discovered in South El Monte Operable Unit (SEMOU). As a result of this discovery, an early action volatile organic treatment system installed by the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority had to be recently upgraded to include additional treatment system for 1,4-dioxane. Regional Board staff are trying to identify the source and occurrence of these chemicals in SEMOU.

We are directing you, along with EMOU groundwater monitoring participants, to implement groundwater sampling and analysis for the above chemicals for two episodes. The first should be conducted in January 2000 and results reported by February 29, 2000. The last episode should be conducted in April 2000, and results reported by May 30, 2000. All your groundwater monitoring wells shall be sampled. The water currently standing in your groundwater monitoring wells may not be representative of in-situ groundwater quality. Therefore, you are directed to remove the standing water in the wells before sampling so that water which is representative of the formation can replace the standing water. You shall also comply with appropriate detection limits for these chemicals which are as follows: 1) perchlorate, 4ug/L; 2) NDMA, 0.033 ug/L; and 3) 1,4-dioxane, 2ug/L.

**California Environmental Protection Agency**



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*Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.*

Gary Lachman

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December 10, 1999

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me at (213) 576-6727.

Sincerely,



Ejigu Solomon  
Associate Engineering Geologist

cc, ~~✓~~ Ms. Bella Dizon, USEPA, Region IX

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